

# On the Green

A publication for Gallaudet University staff and faculty

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MSSD's Class of '97 shares a joyous moment during Commencement exercises.

## MSSD's Class of '97 shows many emotions

By Stacy Nowak

*(Editor's note: Stacy Nowak is a member of MSSD's 1997 graduating class and a former student worker in the Gallaudet Visitor's Center.)*

In gloriously colored robes of navy blue and silver, the 69 graduates of the Model Secondary School for the Deaf paraded into the Gallaudet University Field House May 31 for the school's 27th Commencement exercises.

Some of the members of the Class of '97 wore sunglasses and Birkenstocks, some sported flags and pictures on their caps, but all of their faces expressed emotion—joy, sadness, anticipation. They all knew what was behind, but none of them knew what lay ahead.

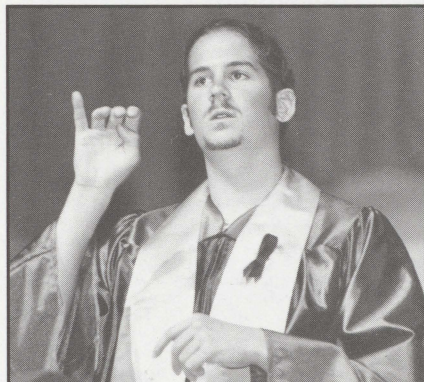
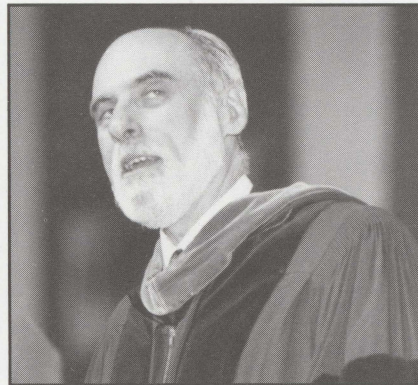
The National Anthem and the graduation song, "Reach," were performed by 12 members of the graduating class. The graduation song, written by Gloria Estefan, is an inspiring reminder of the 1996 Olympics, and the seniors ended the song in a such a poignant manner that the audience rose to their feet for a standing ovation.

This year's Commencement speaker, Dr. Vinton Cerf, is a pioneer in the field of communications technology. Cerf, who is hard of hearing, is senior vice president of Internet Architecture and Engineering Group for MCI Communications Corporation. He is also known as "Father of the

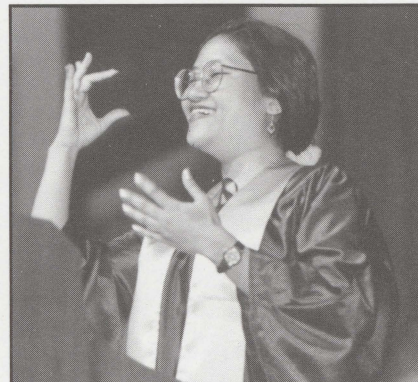
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LEFT: Tim and Linda McCarty, who received the yearbook dedication, accept gifts from Keri MacFarlane. RIGHT: Dr. Vinton Cerf delivers the Commencement address.



Salutatorian Michael Wynne Jr. and Valedictorian Stella Lee present messages to their classmates about life at MSSD and the promises that the future holds.



## KDES graduates seize the day

By Roz Prickett

For the 27 eighth graders at the Kendall Demonstration Elementary School, June 13 was their day in the spotlight. It was the day they graduated from KDES and began a new phase of their lives as high schoolers.

Not once throughout the lively program was the attention diverted from the most important people there: the graduates. This may have

been because the eighth graders themselves were running the show; they selected the speakers, served as emcees, and made other decisions about the program. Also, for the first time, the graduates sat on stage rather than in the audience.

"Today is full of hopes and dreams," said Sarah Raymond, a teacher in the sixth, seventh, and

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LEFT: Ebony Whitley displays the Kendall Cup while Sarah Raymond looks on. RIGHT: Joyce Hom, the other Kendall Cup recipient, gets a hug from Patricia Ross.



## Gallaudet well-represented at World Games

By Brett Marhanka

As of early July, 25 outstanding student-athletes from the Gallaudet community are representing not only the University but their homelands at the 1997 World Games for the Deaf in Copenhagen, Denmark, July 14-26.

Numerous Gallaudet alumni and former students of the University are also among the athletes who are competing in the games. In addition, a number of faculty and staff members are making the trip as coaches or to provide other support for the athletes.

To assist all of the American athletes in their efforts to get into peak condition for the competition, Kendall Green was the site of the pre-Olympics training camp for the athletes and their coaches July 1-12.

The roster of Gallaudet's women student-athletes represents an impressive line-up of competitors. Ronda Miller, Gallaudet's Female Athlete of the Year for 1997, is a member of the U.S. women's basketball team, joining alumna Dawn Talmage on the squad. Capital Athletic Conference first team selection Touria Ouahid and Therese Rollven, both from Sweden, will likely face their Bison teammates on the court.

Dyan Kovacs, the 1996 Gallaudet Female Athlete of the Year, is a key member of the U.S. women's volleyball squad. Joining her are Bison teammates Nikki Surber and Brandy Tetzlaff. The trio is led by their Bison mentor, Peg Worthington, who is head coach of the U.S. squad for the

fifth time.

Competing for the U.S. team in swimming is Nathalie deVigne, Gallaudet's record holder in the 1,650 meter freestyle. Yvonne deVries is playing tennis for the Holland team.

Jennifer White is looking to sprint her way to medal contention for the U.S. women's track team. She is a 1997 All-CAC performer in the 400 and 1,600 meter relays, the 200 meter dash and the 400 meter run, and she may compete in the same four events in Copenhagen. Her Bison track and field teammate, Dawn Moncrieffe, is a middle distance runner for the United Kingdom.

On the men's side, three members of the Bison track and field team are donning the red, white, and blue uniforms of the United States. Patrick Deas, the 1996-97 Gallaudet Co-Male Athlete of the Year, is competing in the 400 meter hurdles and is a possible contender in the 400 and 1,600 meter relays. Deas hopes to add gold medalist to his increasing list of accomplishments, which include consecutive honors as 1996 and 1997 CAC Male Track Athlete of the Year.

Ronald Wyatt, who earned the 1997 CAC Rookie of the Year selection in track and field, is running in the 100 and 200 meter dashes as well as the relays. Tony Berrigan, a CAC record holder in the triple jump, is competing in that event. Bison head coach Jack Mika and assistant coach Tom Withrow are coaches for the U.S. squad; Withrow is also a competitor in several throwing events.

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## BOA learns about timely issues

Gallaudet's Board of Associates met with faculty, staff, and students during its June 5 meeting to learn about a number of new and exciting programs and activities that are underway at the University.

The BOA is composed of 50 business and philanthropic leaders whose role is to increase the University's visibility and prominence in the business and philanthropic communities. They are committed to advancing Gallaudet wherever they go. In order to keep them up-to-date about the University, the board members had their choice of attending five concurrent sessions at the meeting on a variety of timely subjects.

The topics of the sessions were: Gallaudet's latest advances to enrich the visual learning environment; stories from the history of deaf people nationally and internationally; the Gallaudet Research Institute's extensive data on the education of deaf people over the past three decades; cutting-edge multimedia technology that students are learning in the classroom; and new steps that the University is taking to share news with the campus community.

Dr. David Snyder, a professor in the Chemistry and Physics Department who is involved with distance learning activities in the science field between Gallaudet and other schools, informed the BOA about curriculum materials he is designing to support these collaborative efforts.

A new distance education company, Pebblesoft Learning, has supplied Gallaudet with materials and engineering support for a Gallaudet program that enhances teaching skills of science teachers of deaf high school students. Project S\*OAR (Science\* Observing and Reporting) uses the Internet and Integrated-Services Digital Network videoconferencing for teachers to interact with each other and their instructors while taking course work.

In the past, said Snyder, it has been difficult to track the progress each teacher is making and to record their input on how they are benefiting from the courses. The teachers have been sending their comments to the University via fax and the Internet, "but it has been difficult to track

because the information is coming from so many different directions," he said.

But thanks to Pebblesoft, Gallaudet's capability to interact with each teacher will become much easier beginning this fall. Pebblesoft has provided Gallaudet with an Envista server computer that records and tracks each teacher's input and progress on course work. The company has also provided software for course management and the services of an engineering consultant to ensure that the system is operating properly.

Dr. Jack Gannon, who recently retired from Gallaudet as special assistant to the president for advocacy, is at the heart of deaf culture. As an internationally prominent author and storyteller, Gannon has brought a heightened awareness to countless people about a large segment of society that they had previously known very little about.

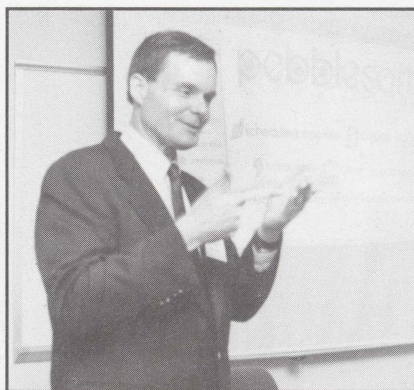
Gannon shared his experiences as a chronicler of deaf history with the BOA, and he passed along a few of his favorite stories.

Gannon also talked about a huge project that he is working on—compiling a history of the World Federation of the Deaf. His research involves contacting the National Association of the Deaf in each member country of the WFD, learning how each organization was founded, who their leaders have been, and the barriers they have had to overcome.

The Gallaudet Research Institute has gathered data related to the education of deaf people for the past 30 years. The GRI's database includes statistics on about 50,000 deaf people from birth through age 22.

Dr. Thomas Allen, director of the GRI, talked about what researchers have learned from the information that has been gathered, and he discussed some of the strategies for making the data available to other researchers. For example, GRI is making data accessible on the Internet, and a CD-ROM with 20 years of survey data has just been published by Sociometrics, Inc., as part of its Research Archive on Disability in the United States.

Dr. Cynthia King, chair of the



Dr. David Snyder explains to the Board of Associates efforts by Pebblesoft Learning to support Project S\*OAR.

Department of Educational Foundations and Research, is a nationally recognized expert on the use of multimedia technology in the classroom. Several students work with King on creating technology that will improve captioning on educational CD-ROMs and on integrating technology into classroom presentations.

David Simmons, a rising senior and the outgoing president of the Student Body Government, demonstrated a multimedia portfolio project that the students have begun through their work with King to supplement their traditional resumes.

Making sure that information on critical University issues gets to as many people on campus as possible is a daunting task. In spite of efforts by *On the Green* and regular e-mail postings, some people have noted that they are unaware of what is happening at Gallaudet.

To resolve the problem, the Public Relations Office and the Department of Television, Photography, and Educational Technology teamed up to create a weekly television news show on the University's cable channel.

Public Relations/Visitors Center Director Mercy Coogan and Television, Photography, and Educational Technology Chair Jane Norman told about how after three semesters, the TV show "What's Up, Gallaudet?" has not only helped the campus feel more informed, it has become a cooperative venture between faculty, staff, and students that has produced an informative, entertaining, and educational program.

At the conclusion, several BOA members said that the sessions were worthwhile.

"The three that I attended were very well done and a lot of good information was exchanged," said Bill Freeman, chief executive officer of Bell Atlantic, Washington, D.C. He said he was particularly impressed by Snyder's and Simmons' presentations because they convey that Gallaudet is taking the lead in using the latest technology to help deaf people compete successfully. He added that Coogan's and Norman's presentation proves, "In times of high stress people tend to want a human touch in the way that information is presented," and he called the campus TV news program, "a stroke of genius."

Bill Cross, vice president of Fannie Mae, said that he was impressed by Gannon's presentation on deaf history and regretted not having time to hear more stories. Joel Orosz, coordinator of Philanthropy and Volunteerism for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, agreed. "Until the history of any group is written down, it doesn't exist. The work Gannon is doing is tremendously important."

## Athletes headed for Copenhagen

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Elijah Gold, a two-time All-CAC selection for the Bison soccer squad, is playing for the U.S. soccer team. Earlier in the year, Gold played on the U.S. men's hockey team at the winter World Games for the Deaf. He is joined on the soccer field by three of this Bison teammates, Eric Gunther, Tyson Dahlstrom, and Andrew Heisley. Beth Schaefer, head of the Bison women's soccer team, is serving as an assistant coach for the U.S. men's squad.

A pair of recent graduates, Jeff Ploederl and Joey Kutcka, are playing on the U.S. men's basketball team. They are joined by senior Robin Johnson. James DeStefano, men's basketball assistant head coach, is a coach for the U.S. team. Elad Rathe will represent Israel on its men's basketball squad.

On the wrestling mat, graduate student and Bison assistant coach Brent Shiver is grappling for the U.S. team. Rob Phillips is a member of the Canadian team on the badminton court. Stefan Bergan is a member of the U.S. men's team handball squad. Patrick O'Brien, men's volleyball head coach, is coaching the U.S. team.

(Note: Each team is subject to change; some additions to the teams may not have been known at press time.)

## Personnel Notes

### Service awards for May

#### Five Years:

Overton Cavanaugh, Custodial Services;

Joan Day, Pre-College National Demonstration Schools; Thomas Esterley, Bookstore

#### Ten Years:

William Bogan, Postal Services; Kris Gould, Athletics

#### Fifteen Years:

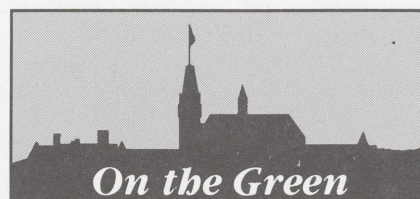
Charlene Laba, Continuing Education and Outreach

#### Twenty-Five Years:

Catherine Fischer, National Information Center on Deafness; Dr. Diane O'Connor, English



Meghan Venturini (second right), a fourth grade student at KDES, won first place in the Capital Virginia and District of Columbia Optimist International Oratorical Contest for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children. Six KDES students competed in the contest. Venturini, who entered in the junior category for students in grades 3 to 8, won a \$1,500 scholarship for her presentation, "Deaf and Hearing Together." She is joined by fourth grader Arlene Ngalle, a runner-up in the contest, grades 3/4/5 teacher Beth Hall (left), and Director of Demonstration Schools Katherine Jankowski. Not pictured is fourth grader Jonathan McMillan, who was also a runner-up.



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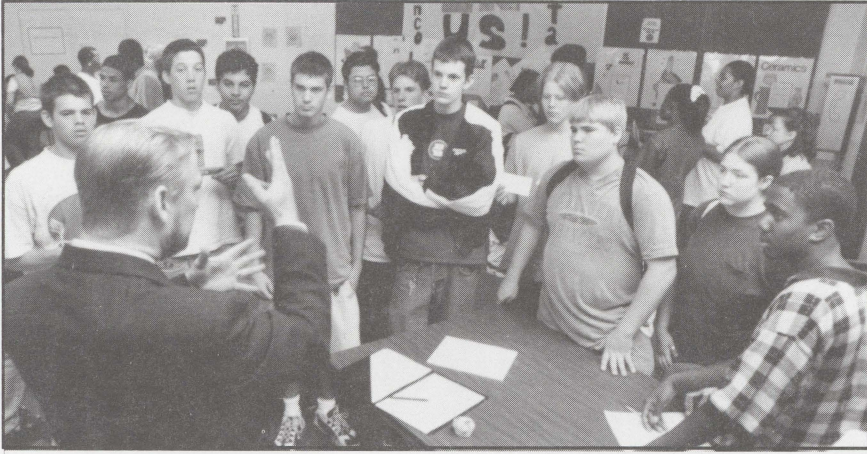
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Ron Siudzinski ('82), network management team chief at the CIA, talks to MSSD students about careers in the computer field at Career Day.

## Alumni give information about careers

By Susan Flanagan

Deaf professionals—alumni—shared an exciting array of career experiences with students at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf on Career Day May 19.

The students had the opportunity to meet and ask questions of these successful deaf professionals, who represent careers ranging from science and math to computers, research, counseling, graphics, liberal arts, and law enforcement.

Government agencies and businesses represented at Career Day were the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, the CIA, the National Institutes of Health, the National Archives, the U.S. Marshall Service, Deaf Reach, the Maryland School for the Deaf, and AT&T Relay Service.

The students asked the alumni a variety of questions, such as how they got their jobs, how many deaf people work in their agency or business, and what salary they make. Two students, Batagana Levongala and Chrystal Whitzel, photographed

the event with a digital camera, and they have transferred the pictures onto Pre-College National Mission Program's website at <http://www.gallaudet.edu/~precpweb>.

Career Day served as the kick-off for a new PCNMP initiative to help prepare deaf students for life and for future careers. According to Marilyn Galloway, a PCNMP transition coordinator, a variety of ongoing activities at MSSD and Kendall Demonstration Elementary School are planned to give the students insights on the world beyond school. Galloway and her team of transition counselors also plan to develop a deaf career role model library for use as both a printed and on-line research base related to career planning and education.

Tom Quinn, a PCNMP transition coordinator, planned Career Day with the assistance of Daphne McGregor, assistant director of Alumni Relations. The event will be held annually; its goal is to increase the number of participants and careers represented.

## PCNMP takes part in reading experience

By Loida Canlas and Yetti Sinnreich

The Third International Read In, an all-day event and the culmination of a worldwide reading and language program, occurred successfully at Pre-College National Mission Programs on May 9. The program brought together students, teachers, staff, and volunteers in a day of varied reading activities at both KDES and MSSD.

The events at MSSD were coordinated by MSSD librarian Loida Canlas. The morning session included a workshop, "Reading Shakespeare," presented by Tim McCarty, president and founder of "Quest: Arts for Everyone."

A monologue from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was delivered by senior Keri MacFarlane to demonstrate the process by which Shakespearean literature is assimilated in ASL. The students had great fun translating and acting out "sophisticated insults" quoted from plays by Shakespeare.

In the afternoon, Cindy Bailes, an assistant professor in Gallaudet's Department of Education and a former MSSD principal, led a presentation, "Various Readers, Various Readings," using the 1995 Caldecott Medal winner, *Smoky Night*, by Eve Bunting. The audience participated in the discussion of the meanings and the implications of the book, with an emphasis on the various interpretations on the book made by different people who read it.

This year marked KDES' third

year to participate in the Read In. The school connected with more than 140,000 participants around the globe via the World Wide Web. KDES' participation was organized by Teams six, seven and eight students, teachers, and staff, and Sandra Hart, academic applications specialist, helped with the computer component.

Before the Read In, students worked on advertising the event, creating a large hallway display including maps of the locations of the global participants, inviting storytellers to the school, selecting and practicing the stories they would read, learning how to videotape, and setting up a book swap.

When the Read In took place, students and staff spent the entire day reading or in reading related activities. They chatted online with many famous children's book authors, including Avi and R.L. Stine, who they discovered had always wanted to learn sign language. Student storytellers from Teams six, seven and eight also visited the other school teams to read to younger students in ASL.

The students also enjoyed ASL storytelling by PCNMP Vice President Jane Fernandes, Director of Demonstration Schools Katherine Jankowski, Library Assistant Renee Suiter, Lead Teacher for Grades One and Two Janet Weinstock, Athletics Assistant/Intramural Coordinator Jerry Mabashov, the school's new Librarian, Cynthia Sadoski, and volunteer Bill Ennis.

## MSSD grads reminisce; look to future

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Internet" for serving as founding president of the Internet Society.

In addition, Cerf is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, the Association for Computing, the American Association for Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the recipient of numerous awards in connection with his work on the Internet.

On May 16, Cerf was chosen to serve as a member of Gallaudet's Board of Trustees, and for him to address MSSD's Class of '97 was truly an honor.

Cerf spoke of the changes that the world has undergone, of the transformations that technology has brought us. As an example of how modern our world is today, his words were projected onto a large screen behind the stage, and he used a laptop computer to point out the major ideas of his speech.

Salutatorian Michael Wynne Jr. of Norristown, Pa., spoke of how the class had stayed together for four years. The class members faced obstacles, yet together they overcame them. He emphasized that life is a long winding path, and with graduation, the Class of '97 adds to its list of experiences. Tomorrow, the journey on the path shall continue, said Wynne.

Valedictorian Stella Lee of Queens, N.Y., expressed that experience is the best teacher. She said that the seniors had grown and learned at MSSD, and they should recognize MSSD as their stepping stone for success. She also thanked her family, friends, and teachers for supporting her through her years at MSSD.

A class poem, written by Stacy Nowak and signed by Micki Lewis and Tyese Wright, was read, and the Senior Song, an adaptation of the traditional Bison Song, was performed by Alan Poon and Christine Morreale.

The class gifts, presented by the class officers, were a framed picture of the class that will be displayed in the school building and a huge banner reading "Model Secondary School for the Deaf, Home of the Eagles" that will be mounted in the gym. Gifts were also presented to the class sponsor, Kathy O'Brien, for her work with the class.

The Class of '97 dedicated the yearbook to a husband and wife team who have supported MSSD for many years, Tim and Linda McCarty. Tim was the heart and soul behind the world-renowned MSSD Performing Arts Program, and Linda has been a teacher for many years. Their dedication, devotion, and contributions to the school have made them two of the most-respected people by the MSSD community. They were presented with class shirts and a wooden plaque.

Two awards were given at the commencement exercises. Tyese Wright received the Principal's Cup for her excellence in academics and extracurricular activities. This was a remarkable achievement considering the fact that she was also awarded the Principal's Cup as a student at Kendall Demonstration Elementary School. The Peter B.

Hobbs Award, a \$ 1,500 scholarship, went to Joseph Santini for his dedication to the MSSD Performing Arts company and the school newspaper, *Telegraph Hill News*.

Seventeen students were recognized for academic excellence.

Diplomas were given, and the seniors had the chance to say a few words to those who meant the most to them. As the Commencement exercises came to a close, the seniors swayed hand-in-hand in a circle around the underclassmen as they took the places of the previous classes.

When the last senior crossed the stage to get his diploma, the book closed on an era that belonged solely to the Class of 1997. The class motto, "Dream what you dare to dream, go where you want to go, be who you want to be—LIVE!" expresses the true character of the class.

## Shared Reading Project launched at PCNMP

By Cathy Carroll

The Shared Reading Project, a successful program at Pre-College National Mission Programs that empowers parents to read to their deaf children, received a nationwide launch in May.

Representatives from five organizations who had been invited to Gallaudet to learn about the project at a four-day workshop took back what they had learned plus \$25,000 each in PCNMP grant money in hopes of improving the reading skills of deaf and hard of hearing students in their communities.

Developed by David Schleper, PCNMP's coordinator of literacy, the Shared Reading Project targets hearing parents of deaf children eight years old or younger and elicits the support of deaf adults in demonstrating how to read to children. "It became obvious that parents wanted to read to their deaf children," said Schleper. "They were reading to their hearing children—they just didn't know how to read to children who are deaf or hard of hearing. Even figuring out a way to hold the book and sign at the same time appeared to be an issue."

Schleper sought the support of those who had already confronted the situation successfully—deaf parents of deaf children. Under the program, deaf adults go to the homes of hearing parents carting cheerful book bags, each of which contain a popular children's book, a videotape showing a child presenting a signed version of the story, and an activity sheet. The deaf literacy workers help and encourage hearing parents in the use of sign language.

Each of the sites chosen to take part in the national program will receive 160 of these book bags. This represents 40 books with four copies of each book per site, in order to give children their choice of what to read.

The Shared Reading Project began four years ago at the Hawaii Center for the Deaf and Blind. It was replicated, expanded, and infused into the curriculum at Kendall Demonstration Elementary

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## KDES graduates anticipate high school

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eighth grade team who opened the program. "It's nice to see that reflected in your faces."

Dina Toulan and Joyce Hom, the tag team emcee duo, kept the program moving along. Toulan read a letter of congratulations from Vice President for Pre-College National Mission Programs Jane Fernandes. "In life, and in our fast-paced and rapidly changing society, the learning and training you've gotten here will serve you well in the future," Toulan read from Dr. Fernandes' letter. "You have made us proud and will continue to do so in the future."

Dr. Katherine Jankowski, the director of KDES and the Model Secondary School for the Deaf, gave the opening remarks. She said, "Going into high school means you're starting a new road. Take advantage of the opportunities, get involved, make as much of it as you can, make new friends, enjoy it, and learn. Good luck and congratulations."

Next, eighth-grader Benjamin Martin welcomed the day's featured speaker, Ruth Reed, to the stage. Reed, who is currently an ASL, Deaf Culture, and Multicultural Specialist at KDES, has worked at Pre-College for 17 years as a resident assistant, teacher's aide, and sign language trainer. She talked about her educational background at the Illinois School for the Deaf and her aspirations of becoming a model. Reed said she chose to enroll at Gallaudet instead of modeling school. "I became fascinated working with deaf children; that's where my heart is," she said. "Even though sometimes I give you a hard time, I've loved all of it."

Reed asked the graduates to remember three important things: family, literacy, and the transition phase they are going through by entering high school.

Following Reed's remarks, Patricia Ross, the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade lead teacher, commenced the presenting of awards. Ross presented the Elizabeth Jackson Award to James Addison and Amanda Rogers for their con-

tinued cooperation, motivation, and positive attitude. Ross was joined on stage for this award by Rashida Abdul-Jabbar, Jackson's daughter and receptionist at KDES.

The Kendall Home and School Organization award went to Benjamin Martin and Eden Vrieze. These two students were honored for, among other things, their academic achievements, studiousness, and citizenship. The Linwood Smith Award for writing went to Valencia Holton and Linda Brooks. Dina Toulan received the Malcolm Norwood Award for excellent leadership skills. The last award, the Kendall Cup, went to Ebony Whitley and Joyce Hom for their leadership, reliability, good academic standing, and cooperation.

Jankowski returned to the stage to assist Ross and Brent Nowak, personal counselor for the team, with the conferring of certificates. Baby pictures of each of the graduates were shown on a large screen before they were called to walk across the stage to receive their certificates. Immediately following this, graduates Kiera Mayhew and Christine Grymes gave their farewell remarks. Mayhew said, "Thank you all for your love and care. We feel good about those things. When you need us, you can depend on us, and we'll depend on you."

Grymes, on behalf of her fellow students, thanked parents, teachers, and friends for their support. She concluded by saying, "We hope to continue our success in high school. Though we are sad to leave Kendall behind, we want to say goodbye."

To cap off the festivities, graduate Valencia Holton—assisted by backing signers and dancers—signed an inspirational rendition of the popular rhythm and blues song "I Believe I Can Fly." Many parents in the audience were so moved by the experience that they stood, cheered, and signed along. Even KDES first-graders joined in the song.

The program ended with teachers and staff in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade team joining Hom and Toulan on stage, where they were each presented with a flower.

## Sites chosen for national reading program

*continued from page 3*  
School two years ago.

When it proved to be successful, Schleper and PCNMP Vice President Jane Fernandes solicited participation from sites across the country. More than 150 inquiries and 38 applications were received.

A committee composed primarily of representatives from Gallaudet University selected the sites, basing its choices on diversity. The committee picked programs from rural and urban settings, programs that serve deaf children through public and center schools, and programs that serve deaf children with additional disabilities. The group also based its choices on programs that serve families from minority groups and families that use a language other than English in their homes.

"Having had my own struggles in reading, I was thrilled to be selected," said Julie Ainsworth of the Minnesota Foundation for Better Hearing and Speech in St.

Paul and the mother of two deaf children. "It helped me learn more about what works best."

Howie Seago of Deaf Connection in Seattle, Wash., was equally enthusiastic. "I've always encouraged parents to read to their deaf children," he said. "Now I realize that we must make reading a priority and actively train them. This gives some practical ways to go about it."

The other representatives chosen were Kathy Obenhaus, who team teaches in a classroom for deaf and hearing children in an elementary school in Las Vegas, Nev.; Jessica DeHaven, also from the Minnesota Foundation for Better Hearing and Speech, St. Paul; Tina Pakis from the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Philadelphia; and Ann Getty from the West Virginia School for the Deaf, Romney.

The national project will continue with 20 weeks of tutoring at each site beginning in October.



Kindergarten children who completed the Child Development Center's program line up to receive certificates at the CDC's June 13 'graduation' ceremony.

## Gallaudet active in child care coalition

By Gail Solit

The 25th annual conference of the National Coalition for Campus Children's Centers, formerly known as the National Coalition for Campus Child Care, was held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., April 16 to 19.

Gallaudet was one of seven local colleges and universities that hosted the event. The others were The Child Development Center of American University, The Children's Education Center of the Catholic University of America, The Center for Young Children at the University of Maryland, the Dundalk Community College Children's Center, the Catonsville Community College Child Care Center, and the Howard University Hospital Child Care Center.

Gallaudet was most prominent on April 16. Vice President for Pre-College National Mission Programs Jane Fernandes gave an inspiring speech on the significant role a campus child care center can and should have on a campus community.

Dr. Fernandes' talk, entitled "Putting it All Together: An Outsider's Perspective on the Roles and Demands of Campus Child Care," gave the audience ideas about how Gallaudet's CDC is utilized on our campus and how campus child care centers in general are very important for the education of young children and their parents, as well as students who can learn about children and appropriate early childhood education by participating in internships, practicums, and observations at child care centers. Fernandes was very well received, and some participants wanted to know if she would speak to their vice presidents and administrators.

The Gallaudet Dance Company entertained the group after Fernandes' talk.

On April 17, presentations were given by Dr. Joan Lombardi, the first associate commissioner of the newly-created Child Care Bureau in the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and by Helen Blank, director of child care at the Children's Defense Fund. Then, 150 conference participants went to Congress to lobby their representatives on the need to include a campus child care bill sponsored by senators Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) into the Higher Education Reauthorization Act of 1995.

The bill, if passed, would greatly

support the continued participation of low-income parents in post-secondary education through the provision of campus-based child care.

Forty of the conference participants came to Gallaudet on April 18 to visit the CDC, the KDES Pre-School, the new playground, and the Bookstore. Other participants visited Catholic University's and the University of Maryland's campus child care centers, the pre-school program at the Capitol Children's Museum, and a federally-operated infant through kindergarten child care program at the Department of Justice.

The plenary session for the conference was a panel presentation on April 19. The panelists were Tawara Taylor from Georgetown University Hospital Medical Center, who spoke about the need for campus child care centers to serve children with special needs; Dr. Carol Seefeldt from the University of Maryland, who explained the role of campus child care centers' staff of modeling appropriate early childhood curriculum techniques to college students; Dr. Carol Copple, from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, who talked about new developmentally appropriate practices for early education; and Dr. Louis Torelli, from Spaces for Children, Berkeley, Calif., who emphasized the need for appropriate environments for young children.

The final speaker was Jonah Edelman, executive director of Stand for Children. He spoke about how each of us in our communities need to work together and ensure that young children get all that they need to grow and succeed, and he gave specific suggestions and methods for this work.

Gallaudet was involved in the organization of the conference for the last year and one-half through the CDC and the University Conference Management team of Mary Lou Novitsky and Daryl Frelich. The Department of Publications and Production prepared and printed all of the flyers, brochures, and programs. The Gallaudet Bookstore donated a gift for each participant.

Also, the interpreters for the April 16 evening sessions were from Gallaudet Interpreting Service, and the photographs of the opening session were taken by Dave McGregor, husband of Daphne McGregor, assistant director of Alumni Relations. The McGregors' son, Andy, attends the CDC.